Smuggling of textiles into the country

@2529. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of textiles into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal seriously affecting the textile industry in the country;

(b) if so, what is the estimated value of the textiles being smuggled into the country annually and the estimated recession in demand of indigenous products as a result thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the main reasons for large scale smuggling of textiles into the country is the high price of indigenous products due to high rates of taxation;

(d) whether Government propose to rationalise the taxation structure in order to give relief to the textile industry in the country and also to check smuggling of textiles; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that synthetic fabrics continue to be an item sensitive to smuggling into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal. Synthetic fabrics of foreign origin may be favoured for smuggling into the country due to various factors like profitability, better design and quality vis-a-vis Indian product, etc. However, smuggling being a clandestine activity, no reliable estimate of the value of synthetic textiles smuggled into the country is feasible.

(c) to (e) In pursuance to the Textile Policy 1985, the Government has already taken a series of steps and has reduced the excise duty rates on polyester staple fibre, acrylic fibre, polyester-cotton and polyester-viscose blended yarn and polyester-wool blended yarn. The Government has also formulated a scheme under which polyester staple fibre could be supplied free of excise/countervailing duty for manufacture and sale of low priced blended fabrics. A similar scheme has been announced in the Budget, 1987 to make available good quality sarees at reasonable price.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1627 transferred from the 10th March, 1987.

Setting up of courts to deal with CBI cases

@@2530. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to set up courts to deal exclusively with the CBI cases; and

(b) if so, what is the nature and scope of such courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government are considering setting up of more Courts of Special Judges and Special Magistrates to deal exclusively with CBI cases. These courts are proposed to be set up in States where there are a large number of CBI cases pending for trial.

Social Reforms in Civil Services

@@@2531. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake any reforms in civil services in order to get them ready to meet the challenges of the social changes; and

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 1664 tranferred from the 10th March, 1987.